

TENNESSEE FARMERS WHO GROW LIVESTOCK ARE MOST PROSPEROUS

Essentials In Production of Cattle For Market Given—Good Pasture and Good Quality Animals Important

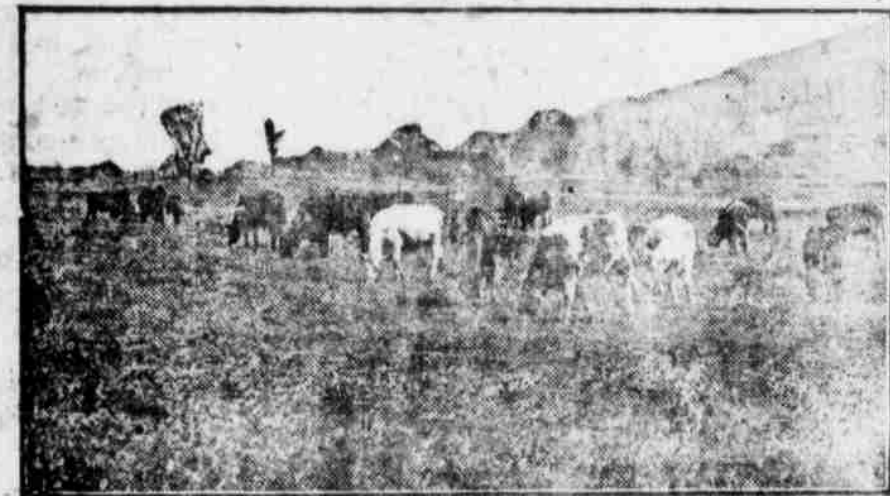
(By L. A. Richardson, Livestock Specialist, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee.)

The question which is uppermost in the minds of our farmers today is how to balance their system of farming. In other words can our farming system be so planned that we may raise two or more merchantable products during the year. The business farmer seeking to enhance his annual income, through years of experience has found it unwise to attempt carrying all his eggs in one basket. The one crop farmer who produces tobacco, cotton or sweet potatoes has had the result of his toil spilled too often of recent years by depressed market conditions. While many of our livestock farmers are in one sense one crop farmers, yet in surveying the situation in Tennessee we find them universally in better condition than the cotton, tobacco or potato farmer. After all he has met reverse market conditions cheerfully. However, it must be borne in mind that the financial loss of the livestock farmer in the production of commercial cattle has been extremely great.

In determining the kind and type of farming in which one desires to become engaged there are many things to be considered. A "safe and sane," as is quoted above a well balanced farming system should be held in mind. Primarily, soil fertility represents the farmer's invested capital. On it his

acreage of one of the cash crops common to Tennessee. The kind of crop depends somewhat on the section of the state. In West Tennessee cotton or potatoes could be worked in. In some sections of Middle and East Tennessee, tobacco would be most logical. With a due amount of study as to his farm conditions and the opportunity to consult an authority at the experiment station the Tennessee farmer should be able to work the crops named into a systematic and thorough workable rotation. The object of the livestock farmer should be to produce largely the ration used in the maturing of his cattle if he would finish his cattle cheaply. Economy in ration must be held in mind. Silage, legume hay, straw produced by oats will furnish the roughage. With the proper knowledge of the relative feeding value of the above named concentrates and roughages a nutritious and economical ration may be worked out.

The livestock farmer must also be mindful of necessary equipment. Fences should be constructed substantially of good material and not at too great expense. The cattle barn should be located on an elevation, with good drainage and as much of a south easterly exposure as possible to secure. The proximity of that portion of the barn to be devoted to crops should be kept in mind in selecting a barn site.



A Familiar Scene on Hundreds of Tennessee Farms.

success, his crop yield, and his profits and income from the farm depend. A thorough working knowledge of the soil must be acquired. Information as to what constitutes soil fertility; the conservation of it and the necessary elements of plant food as well as organic matter, moisture, the effects of heat and cold are essential to success.

In addition to this the best method of cultivation and the working of the soil should be held in mind if good yields are to be secured for the time and labor expended.

Knowledge of Pastures Needed.

Much knowledge must be acquired of pastures and pasture building; the proportion of the farm to be devoted to pasture and its carrying capacity. No farmer, particularly in Middle and East Tennessee, should be contented with his pasture until he has succeeded in building a sod sufficiently dense to average 275 to 300 pounds per acre during the grazing season. To do this an application of manure, lime or acid phosphate may be necessary. The production of livestock is certainly an uphill business where good pastures are not available. A knowledge of the grass mixtures which will produce best results and certain types of soil when needed to pasture should be acquired. The provision for ample watering facilities for the stock is important.

The acreage set aside for cropping should balance the carrying capacity of the pastures. Too frequently we find the two boundaries lacking proportion. The practice of wintering and finishing a carload of steers in Tennessee is becoming more common. The farmer who uses the light steer as a stocker and avails himself of good pasture to put on cheap gains renders the winter ration of roughage concentrates more economical in finishing. Thus it may be said that the boundaries for cropping depend on two things, namely, the crops essential to livestock farming, and economy in labor costs.

Here a knowledge of crops and their feeding value both concentrates and roughage assists the farmer in determining his rotation. The man who has adopted a systematic rotation of crops is producing a larger tonnage of feed, his soil is in a higher degree of fertility and his labor costs are less.

Corn, oats and barley are three most useful concentrates in livestock production. A sufficient acreage of the above named crops should be put out to enable the farmer to grow the large percentage of the concentrates necessary in balancing the ration. To the above, of course, some cottonseed meal will have to be added. The acreage of corn should be sufficient to take care of the silage and furnish some surplus.

Legume Crops For Feed.

With the world's population should play an important part. They may consist of clover, alfalfa, vetch, or any of the legume crops which may be added. With a few more acres of legume crops, a farmer may have a limited

Thereby, the distance in hauling feed is shortened and the fields are easily accessible in returning the manure. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the latter clause. Manure is one of the valuable assets to the farming system of the State in maintaining soil fertility.

The barn should be so constructed that it will provide ample space for the storing of feed and the housing of cattle. The farmer must be mindful that it is economy in time and expense to provide storage for both crops and livestock under one roof. The feed room should be located in the barn with space for the storage of concentrates and mixing of feed. Water should also be easily accessible. A complete system of barn plans may be secured from the Experiment Station upon application.

Quality of Animals Important.

This article would be incomplete were the quality and type of livestock to be fed omitted. As reference was made to economy in feed and the same applies to the animal fed. It is a recognized fact in commercial cattle production that to waste good feed on a poor quality of cattle is expensive and lacks good business judgment. The fact remains that the animals carrying breeding and quality will make more economical gains on the feed consumed than the inferior grade. This truth has been found out by the history of markets in years past.

The livestock farmer must be a student of markets. When he has finished his cattle he has a merchantable product and profit or loss depend on his ability to market it successfully. Through the agricultural press as well as the daily paper the opportunity is offered to acquire a knowledge of markets and market conditions. The farmer should ascertain the extent of supply and demand for meat not only on his home market but also on that of other sections. This enables him to determine just what markets to ship to. It further assists him to feed more intelligently, since in surveying the markets we find that in some a light carcass sells to an advantage, in others a medium finished steer is greatly in demand, while on others a prime or highly finished animal is desired. Thus the market presents one of the big problems for the farmer. It is only by gaining an intelligent and thorough going knowledge of the same by close application that the farmer as a merchant will be able to better himself.

Last, but of great importance is the assembling of a library. Books which would be most informational consist of those on types and breeds of livestock, market classes, feeding, livestock diseases, soils, farm crops, etc. To these may be added bulletins and circulars published by our Experiment Station staff also a judicious selection of farm periodicals. A list of the same may be had upon application to the Division of Extension, University of Tennessee.

WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO USE FERTILIZER THIS YEAR

(Progressive Farmer)

With fertilizer at its present high prices, can we afford to use it this year?

This is the uppermost fertilizer question in the minds of the farmers in the fertilizer-using sections of the South. The Progressive Farmer has gone thoroughly into this question from every angle, and the deeper we go the more convinced we are that our farmers can't afford not to use fertilizer to make their 1921 crops. The per acre cost will be increased, but the per bushel or per pound cost will be reduced, and it is the bushels and pounds that we must sell at a profit.

This is not time to plunge on fertilizer in order to get phenomenal yields, or to experiment with new mixtures. Use safe amounts of the kinds of fertilizer that have given paying results on your types of soil. Not only should the farmers who have heretofore used fertilizer continue the conservative use of it, but there are farmers in every community who have depended solely on their own efforts and the original plant foods in poor soil to make their crops, who should now supplement these things with added plant food, at least on a few acres, and get away from unprofitably low yields. We can not afford to farm at a loss again this year, and yields of 15 to 20 bushels of corn or a fourth to a third of a bale of cotton an acre will not pay for the labor, seed and use of the land and leave a profit. It is essential, then, that our yields be raised well above the average, and the only practicable means of doing this for this year is with fertilizer wisely used.

Yields, Economy and Fertilizer

(Southern Ruralist.)

To make the crops of 1921 larger and more economical than they would otherwise be even on reduced acreage there can be no doubt that the judicious use of fertilizers is to be recommended.

A great many people are arguing, with particular reference to cotton, that we should not try to increase our yield per acre because that would increase the total production. That is like arguing that a man should make two trips to town, hauling a half-load at a time, when one trip would do the job.

We should buy cooperatively in car lots, paying cash if possible, and insist on the better grade materials. Per unit the plant foods in the better grade goods come cheaper. Like the argument against increased yields, there is not one single sound argument in favor of low grade fertilizers. Buy whatever gives best results on your soils.

Fertilizer Situation

(Progressive Farmer.)

It is an accepted fact that when the prices of crops are low, higher yields per acre must be striven for. Fertilizers have been the chief dependence of the Southern farmer for pushing up yields in the past. This year he would, of course, like to have fertilizers so cheap that he could use them to the limit. But it seems that fertilizers will not be sold as cheaply as they have been in the past.

On the part of the fertilizer manufacturer there is a claim that they cannot possibly get back to pre-war prices this year. One reason given as to why this cannot be done is, that the industry is carrying a very heavy load of farmers' accounts that came over from 1920. In order to carry these notes the manufacturers have been forced to borrow heavily. Yet, in spite of this, losses have already occurred on 1920 accounts. In addition there was considerable material bought at peak prices last summer for use in manufacturing mixed fertilizers this year. On this they stand to lose.

The fertilizer industry is underwriting the farmers of the South to the extent of about \$150,000,000. Had the fertilizer manufacturers closed in and collected all the farmers' notes when they fell due it is probable that there would have been widespread financial disaster.

Instead of a ruthless policy, tolerance has been accorded the farmer. This policy has burdened the manufacturer so heavily that it is claimed that fertilizer prices cannot be reduced any further during this season.

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On Wednesday evening, March 9. Mr. and Mrs. H. Grady entertained at their home with a six o'clock dinner. Covers were laid for six and an elaborate menu was served in courses.

The guest list included Judge J. M. Gardenhire, Attorney General J. Ridley, Mitchell, Barney R. White, an attorney of Cookeville, and local counsel Daniel B. Johnson and Coleman C. Gore.

An informal reception followed the dinner which was a very enjoyable affair.

Rev. J. T. Draper Preaches at Christain Church Sunday Morning.

Rev. J. T. Draper of Salt Lick, will preach at the Christian church here, on the third Sunday in this month at eleven o'clock. Bro. Draper has been filling pulpits over the county for a long time, and his sermons are always worth while. The public is cordially invited to hear him.

FOR SALE—A pair of bay match horses, 8 and 10 years old. A good serviceable team, stout and healthy. Will sell cheap on terms. Gainesboro Dry Goods Company, Gainesboro.



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CARDUI The Woman's Tonic

"I decided to try it," continues Mrs. Ray. "I took eight bottles in all. I regained my strength and have had no more trouble with womanly weakness. I have ten children and am able to do all my housework and a lot of out-door work. I can sure recommend Cardui."

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